

Appln No. 10/716,822

Amdt date July 5, 2005

Reply to Office action of February 4, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 4-21 are now pending in this application. Applicant has cancelled claims 2 and 3, amended claim 1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 12 and 13, and added new claims 14-21. The amendments to claims 4, 5, 8, 10 and 12 were solely to correct minor, inadvertent grammatical errors. The amendments and new claims find full support in the original specification, claims and drawings. No new matter is presented. Applicant therefore requests reconsideration and timely indication of allowance.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant notes that the Examiner has not yet acknowledged the Information Disclosure Statement submitted on April 14, 2004. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner return an initialed copy of the Form PTO/SB/08A/B with the next communication from the Office.

In the Office action dated February 4, 2005, the Examiner rejected independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by Cookston, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,824,031). However, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to recite "first and second puller wires being attached to each other at their distal ends and being slidably interlocked to resist separation along at least the length of the first and second puller wires that extend through the catheter body and tip section." Cookston failed to teach or suggest such a configuration. Rather, Cookston appeared to disclose a rectangular puller wire merely sitting within a U-shaped puller wire. Such a configuration does not resist separation and Cookston provided no teaching on resisting separation.

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Accordingly, independent claim 1, and all claims dependent therefrom, including claims 4-12 and new claims 14, 16, 18 and 19, are allowable over Cookston.

The Examiner also rejected claims 2-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over Cookston in view of Webster (U.S. Patent No. 6,210,407) and Barchilon (U.S. Patent No. 3,470,876). However, neither Webster nor Barchilon disclosed or taught "first and second puller wires being attached to each other at their distal ends and being slidably interlocked to resist separation along at least the length of the first and second puller wires that extend through the catheter body and tip section," as claimed in amended claim 1. Accordingly, amended independent claim 1, and all claims dependent therefrom, including claims 4-13 and new claims 14 and 15, are allowable over Cookston, Barchilon and Webster.

Each of new claims 14-21 depends from either independent claim 1 or 13, which is now allowable as described above. New claims 14-21 further define notch and rib structures of the puller wires. None of Cookston, Barchilon and Webster taught or suggested such a puller wire construction.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all of pending claims 1 and 4-21 are in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request a timely indication of allowance. However, if there are any remaining questions that can be addressed by telephone, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the

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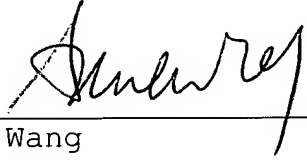
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number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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